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Teacher Tells Of Passing By Mrs. Meyer

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A Georgetown University mathematics teacher said yesterday he saw Mrs. Mary Pinchot Meyer just minutes before her death on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal towpath last fall.

William L. Mitchell, of 1500 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, testified on the fifth day of the first-degree murder trial of Ray Crump Jr. in U.S. District Court.

The body of Mrs. Meyer, a 43-year-old divorcee, was found on the towpath near Key Bridge last Oct. 12 with a bullet wound in her head and another in her back. The government believes she was shot about 12:25 p.m.

Passed Two Persons

Mitchell, who was then an Army Lieutenant, said he was exercising on the canal towpath when he saw "a woman, middle-aged, in a blue ski parka and slacks." He put the time at 12:20 p.m.

Mitchell said he was running eastward when he saw Mrs.

Meyer walking west towards Fletcher's Boathouse. The two met at a narrow bridge crossing a spillway.

"I had to stop running and come to a complete stop to let her cross the bridge," Mitchell testified. "After she crossed, I started up again," he said.

About 200 yards further up the path, Mitchell continued his testimony, he saw a Negro male, "about my size . . . about 5 feet 8 and about 145 pounds." The man, he said, was wearing a golfer's cap, a light windbreaker and dark slacks. He had his hands in his pockets.

Mitchell, under questioning of Asst. U.S. Atty. Alfred Hantman, identified clothing belonging to Crump in trial evidence as being "similar" to that worn by the man he saw on the towpath.

2 Detectives Testify

But, he said, he would not recognize the man if he saw him again.

In other testimony before Judge Howard F. Corcoran yesterday, Homicide Detective Bernard D. Crook said he arrested Crump after he heard a police lookout for a Negro male, 5 feet 8 inches and wearing a dark hat and light jacket.

Crook said Crump's clothing was wet, that there were grass, twigs and dirt on the front of his shirt, his left trouser pocket was ripped and there was a cut in his right hand, but that his hair was dry.